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As an appreciation of the work done and inspiration of work to be done, this book should bring forth much effort in its field, particularly where it is greatly needed—the rural communities.

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*Contemporary American History.* By CHARLES A. BEARD. New York: Macmillan, 1914. 8vo, pp. vii+397. \$1.50.

*Contemporary American History* was written for the purpose of supplying the apparent need of a textbook embracing the leading events in American history between the Civil War and the year 1914.

Of his work, the author says: "I have made no attempt to present an artistically balanced account of the last thirty-five years, but have sought rather to furnish a background for the leading issues of current politics and to enlist the interest of the student in the history of the most wonderful period of American development." With this purpose in view he confines himself to the history of several leading movements and issues and omits all mention of events not connected with them.

The first movement discussed is restoration of the white dominion in the South amid the chaotic condition brought about by the enfranchisement of the negro. Next is given the economic revolution which occurred in the first years following the war, the leading events of which were the remarkable growth of capital, the development of the West, and the economic reconstruction of the South. A significant movement was the revolution in politics and law during the early part of this period. The author points out the change in leadership in politics from that of the old-school type of Clay and Webster to that of Conkling and Platt; these new leaders, it is said, changed the alignment of politics from purely political issues to issues affecting capital. The most important and suggestive change in the realm of law was the growth and establishment of judicial review of legislation in the various states.

Other important movements were the various political struggles centering around party issues, important federal legislation, and the growing conflict between capital and labor with its attendant problems. The period marked by the war with Spain is discussed under the topic "Imperialism," and is considered from that viewpoint. The administrations of Roosevelt and Taft and the campaign of 1912 are discussed with considerable detail.

The principal value of the work is that the author, in a single volume, has given the essence of the movements which are indicative of the current of history during the period.

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*Social Work in London 1869-1912. A History of the Charity Organization Society.* By HELEN BOSANQUET. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., 1914. 8vo, pp. x+409. \$3.00.

The problems of a community are often most clearly seen from the records of some organization which played its part in meeting and solving them.